

Optimization of intractable expectations

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$$\eta^* := \operatorname{argmin}_{\eta} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}(z)} [f(z|\eta)] := \operatorname{argmin}_{\eta} \ell(\eta),$$

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- Stochastic control (e.g. you have a factory, and supply and demand are random)
- Black box variational inference (our interest; we'll define it later)

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 - Update with $\eta^i = \eta^{i-1} - \rho \nabla_{\eta} \hat{\ell}(\eta)$ for some step size ρ (new z_n every step)
 - Approximately minimizes the exact objective

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Which is better? **It depends.**